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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-34 remain pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 16-22, 27-29, and 31-34 for clarification, and amend claims 23, 25 and 30 for minor corrections. No new matter has been added.

Applicants, again, acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 23-26, and 30, and, again, respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that all certified copies of priority documents for this application have been received.

Claims 16-22, 27-29 and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,751,720 to Uematsu et al. Applicants amend the claims in a good faith effort to clarify the invention and distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner maintained the rejection by citing the description of VC type indicated by SS in Uematsu et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed invention. But as the Examiner stated, the pointer interpreter described in the cited portions of Uematsu et al. processes a "pointer from received STN-N frame ...[for] a VC type indicator/size." Page 2, lines 15-19 of the Office Action. (Emphasis added) The cited portion of Uematsu et al., col. 2, lines 5-12, only includes description of SS indicating VC-3, VC-4, VC4-4c, and VC4-16c when it is set to "10." Thus, Uematsu et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, only include description of processing an SS bit within a pointer from a received STN-N frame for indication of VC type within the frame, and do not disclose processing the pointer from the synchronous transmission frame for the size of the synchronous transmission frame itself.

In other words, Uematsu et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose,

"[a]n apparatus comprising:

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a pointer processing section for processing a pointer contained in a *synchronous transmission frame* including data for one or more channels; and

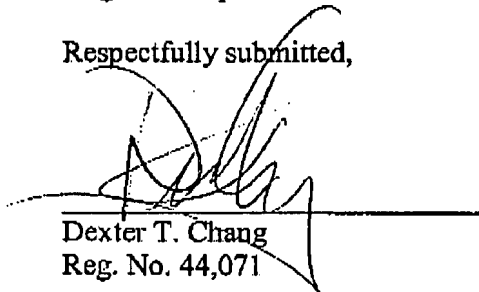
a frame identification section identifying a frame size defined by a scheme of multiplexing one or more of *the synchronous transmission frames* based on a change in a pointer processing result of said pointer processing section for the data from each channel," as recited in claim 16. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 17-22, 27-29, and 31-34 also incorporate features of processing pointers for attributes of synchronous transmission frames, which correspond to those of claim 16 cited above. Therefore, they are patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the same reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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